

# It on Easter Monday's Berks and CAN WYCOMBE MAKE IT THIRD TIME LUCKY?

**HAVING** lost the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup Final for two successive years, Wycombe Wanderers will be going all out to prevent a Slough Town hat-trick when the rivals meet at Chesham United's Meadow ground on Easter Monday.

Only three clubs have ever won the coveted trophy three years running: Marlow between 1887-90, Maidenhead from 1929-32 and Windsor and Eton during the war, when they won five years on the trot from '40-45.

Despite winning the Isthmian League championship for the last two seasons, Wanderers have been unable to lift the County Cup, failing both times against the 'Rebels'. This term, they are out of the league championship and therefore the Allied Counties competition should mean that much more to them than before.

This year's final is being staged at Chesham, a venue which should please Wycombe for it was here that they last won the trophy back in '68/69. Again the opponents were Slough with Wanderers winning 3-2 in extra time.

## HERO TONY

The hero of the hour on that day was none other than Tony Horseman, who broke through to score the Blues' winning goal in front of a 4,000 strong crowd. It is a tribute to "Bodger's" consistency that he makes another cup final appearance on Monday.

One man who must be hoping his luck will change is Wanderers' skipper John Delaney. Poor John has been in no less than five County finals — and lost the lot. Ironically he lost to Wycombe when with Slough and then lost to Slough when playing for Wycombe!

But, make no mistake about it, Slough Town will not be keen to release their hold on the cup, especially after their F.A. Amateur Cup final defeat by Walton and Hersham at Wembley on Saturday.

They have the confidence of winning the two previous

Analysing their team it is difficult to find a weakness. Starting from the back, goalkeeper Ian Wolstenholme takes no chances in the air as was evident last Saturday when he punched clear almost every high ball inside his penalty area. He is also very tidy on the ground.

It is upfront that Slough could come unstuck against Wanderers defence. Often this season they have relied on big Mick Chatterton to provide them with goals. He has 30 to his credit — the club's top marksman.

Chatterton has two small players to support him, — Geoff Anthony and Mick O'Sullivan. Anthony, a former Wycombe player and Welsh international, is always tricky but if the Wycombe rearguard can snub out this threat, Chatterton will be starved of the possession he needs.

O'Sullivan's main asset is his constant working and bustling. They key therefore, could well rest between the duel between Chatterton and John Delaney.

Slough won four major honours last season — the County cup, the Athenian League title, the Athenian League Cup and the Premier Midweek League Cup.

This season they were pipped in their section of the Premier Midweek League by Hayes, who are managed by ex-Slough boss Bob Gibbs. Ironically Slough have not lost in the competition for two years and only vital points dropped in drawn matches cost them a place in the play-offs.

Without doubt the match will be close but if Wycombe can master the Slough front runners and perhaps snatch an early goal, they could upset the favourites.

It's about time they laid the 'Slough bogey'. In their last few meetings they have lost out everytime. As well as the county cup competition, they lost and drew in the Premier Midweek Floodlight League and were knocked out of the F.A. Cup after a replay two years ago. Their fortunes must change sooner or later. Could it be third time lucky?

## Paths to final

### WYCOMBE

**WYCOMBE** Wanderers reached the final by beating Chalfont St. Peter 9-0 and Bracknell Town 1-0 after a replay. Against Chalfont at Loakes Park, Larry Pritchard led the way with a hat-trick while other goals came from John Delaney, Ian Rundle, Derek Gamblin, Tony Horseman, Rob Williams and Tony Amos.

In the semi-final it was a much different story against another Spartan League club, Bracknell Town. The Blues went ahead through Johnny Hutchinson but Bracknell hit back twice to lead 2-1. Only a Tony Amos goal two minutes from the end gave Wanderers a second chance. In the replay Wycombe inched through with a Larry Pritchard goal.

### SLOUGH TOWN

**SLOUGH**, the holders, also came in at the quarter final stage and met Aylesbury United, conquerors of Marlow, at the Dolphin Stadium. Goals by Mick Chatterton, Micky O'Sullivan and Geoff Anthony saw them to a 3-1 verdict. But they too had a hard struggle in the semi-final and were fortunate to get through.

Their opponents were Wokingham Town, who were playing on their home ground. Slough were unable to break through and seemed to be heading for defeat when Wokingham were awarded a penalty. However, Ray Brill sent his kick wide and Slough forced extra time. During that period Chatterton scored to put the Rebels in the final.

meetings and are recognised as one of the top amateur sides in the south. At Wembley they showed that they will be extremely difficult to beat.

Slough's side is built around four former Enfield players who all came to the club after former England manager Tommy Lawrence was appointed Slough's boss in 1970. The four men — goalkeeper Ian Wolstenholme, right-back Ian Reid, centre-back Alf D'Arcy and mid-field schemer Roger Day — are all England internationals.

The full backs are strong but in the middle their centre backs are sometimes slow to turn. Nevertheless Keith Mead, Alf D'Arcy and Terry Reardon have a wealth of experience behind them and many rank Mead as one of the top defenders in amateur football.

D'Arcy played as a sweeper at Wembley but the spark in midfield is provided by skipper Roger Day, so often the instigator of attacks and the Rebels "dead ball" specialist.